

Serial No. 09/973,433
Amdt. dated April 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2004

Docket No. IBN-0002

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 34, 36, 39, 40-41, 48 49, and 53 have been amended.

Claims 1-11 and 33 have been cancelled.

Claims 55-58 have been added.

Claims 27-32 and 49-54 have been allowed.

Claims 12-21, 34 and 38-47 have been objected to, and are indicated in the Office Action to be allowable upon amendment to delete dependency on a rejected base claim.

Claims 12-32 and 34-58 are pending in the application.

Applicant has amended several of the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to place them in even further condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 12-21, 34, and 38-47 have been amended so as to eliminate any dependency on any rejected claim.

Claims 27-32 and 49-54 have previously been indicated in the Office Action to be allowable over the prior art. In addition, claims 12-21, 34, 38-47 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Serial No. 09/973,433
Amdt. dated April 1, 2005
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Applicant has amended claims 27, 28, 31, 49, 53 and 54 to correct typographical errors, as well as to delete the term, “preferably”, where this term appears in the claims. In addition, the claims indicated as allowable (Claims 12-21, 34, 38-47) have been amended so as to incorporate the appropriate limitations.

II. REJECTION/NEW MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that material added at the following pages of the Specification is objectionable as constituting new matter: pages 7, 10, 14, 23, 25, and 27.

In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, the request to add the various passages to the Specification by prior amendment is hereby withdrawn.

III. REJECTION of CLAIMS 1-11, 22, 24-26, 33-37, 48 - 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over USP 5,92,603 (DUNKELMAN et al.)

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled in the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present case to allowance. Therefore, the rejection of the claim 1-11 is rendered moot.

Claims 22, 24-26, 33-37 and 48 have been amended so as to ultimately be dependent upon base claims indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Hence, the rejection of these claims is also deemed moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22, 24-26, 33-37 and 48 over Dunkelman is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/973,433
Amdt. dated April 1, 2005
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Docket No. IBN-0002

IV. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

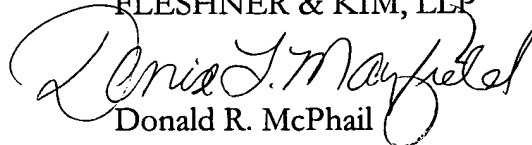
The Office Action indicates that the Drawings submitted with the application are objectionable. Applicant will submit Replacement Drawings upon receipt of the Notice of Allowance in the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Denise L. Mayfield, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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